Cable Landing Station in West Bengal;

(b) the details of the total project cost of the above project; and

(c) the date of completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are jointly working towards setting up of International long distance link through submarine optical fibre cable from eastern side of the country towards Malaysia and Singapore. A consultant has already been appointed for this project and at present formulation of specification, finalization of landing station etc. are in process. Based on the report of the consultant, further action in this matter will be taken up.

Mobile services in rural areas of Uttarakhand

†3056. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of availability of mobile services in various districts of Uttarakhand;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up intensive tower network in rural areas in order to expand the areas coming under mobile service; and

(c) if so, the number of towers and locations thereof to be installed in various districts of Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) All the district headquarters of Uttarakhand have been provided with mobile services and it is estimated that about 40% of the population is covered by mobile services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing support for creation of shared towers across the country including Uttarakhand. In Uttarakhand, 217 towers are going to be set up with support from USOF for covering remote and rural areas in the 13 districts of Uttarakhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Complete tower details (District-wise and Tower-wise locations) are available on DoT Website under the heading "What's New" and further sub-heading "Tender".

Extension of Speed Post services in A.P.

3057. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post is expecting to increase its revenue to the tune of Rs. 500 crores for 2006-07 from Rs. 408 crores in 2005-06;

(b) if so, whether it is possible to extend Speed Post services in 18 more cities of the country to tap the market;

(c) if so, the details of the 18 cities to which Speed Post has been extended;

(d) whether any new cities are proposed to be added in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps his Ministry is taking to increase the market share from the present 27 per cent to 35 per cent by 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The Speed Post revenue for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 449.15 crores.

(b) and (c) The network of Speed Post Service is extended as required taking into account the market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc. The National Speed Post network was extended to 18 more cities on 01.01.2007, 25 cities on 01.03.2007 and 55 more cities on 02.04.2007. The details of the new National Speed Post Centres are given in the Statement-I and II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) 14 new cities in Andhra Pradesh have been added in the National Speed Post network. One city was added on 01.01.2007 and 13 others were added on 02.04.2007. Details are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).